

Dear Legislators,

My name is Sharon Silbo and I live in Wethersfield with my husband and 8 year old son James who has autism. James has been receiving Applied Behavioral Analysis for at least 4 years now. Our BCBAs have been fantastic and eager to help my son and us as his parents understand the puzzle that autism is. However, there has always been an underlying concern that they are seen as the consummate professionals they are even though ABA is the only proven clinical treatment for behavior issues for all those on the autism spectrum. I would like to see them me fully licensed and have oversight by the State of CT as in doing my research have found that many other states in this country, BCBAs are already licensed. Every state directly attached to CT has licensure for their BCBAs such as MA, NY and RI.

Why is it that other professionals that work with our children are licensed but BCBAs are not? For example, teachers, counselors, nurses, PT, OT, and SLP. The BCBAs are such an enormous part of these children's lives and help them adapt and learn skills to be able to function in the real world that they certainly should get the same recognition as teachers and other specialists in their field. Please consider licensure for BCBAs in the State of CT. It is important to all families who deal with behavioral problems with their children on the spectrum. Without BCBAs there would be no ABA Therapy available to our kiddos. We can't allow that.

Thank you. Sharon Silbo